



## **West Fertilizer Plant Explosion**

### **Regional Update**

**April 30, 2013, 1900 CDT**

- EPA and TCEQ have consulted and scheduled cessation of air monitoring activities for 1800 hrs. on May 1, 2013. EPA has planned to demobilize personnel and assets throughout the day on May 2, 2013.
- State operations briefings have been discontinued effective April 30, 2013.

- On April 30, 2013, in the ATF morning briefing, all personnel were made aware that fire department personnel and apparatus would be at the site of the explosion to provide fire suppression capabilities to respond to any flare-ups of smoldering grain that had been observed in the previous day.
- Two meetings are scheduled for May 1, 2013. The ATF will have a morning operational briefing at 0800 and the debris management coordination team will meet at 1000.
- Displaced residents now have access to their properties from 0700 – 1900 daily. Residential waste from the affected properties is being placed in their respective yards and at the curb.
- On April 30, 2013 EPA continued daytime air monitoring activities with three stationary sites to the west and north of the facility. The northern monitoring site was added to provide a downwind site during south winds. The site is approximately one half mile north of the fertilizer facility. EPA will continue monitoring for the same parameters that include volatile organic compounds and ammonia. No air monitoring readings above background were detected during today's operations.
- The public drinking water system is still being evaluated throughout the City of West. The TCEQ and City of West personnel continued assessing the system on April 30, 2013. A boiled water notice remains in effect. The State of Texas Public Works Response Team demobilized from West on April 30, 2013.
- EPA is compiling air monitoring data for ammonia to be uploaded onto the TCEQ website. EPA Toxicologist will assess results before submitting to TCEQ.
- EPA continues to coordinate with FEMA, ATF, OSHA, CSB, TCEQ, DSHS, and the Office of the Texas State Chemist on current and future site operations.
- TCEQ contractors continued conducting 24 hour air monitoring around the facility perimeter.
- An official statement of the cause of the incident has not been released. ATF investigations into the order of events and cause of the explosion are on-going.

<b>Personnel</b>	<b>EPA OSC In Field</b>	<b>EPA RSC in Field</b>	<b>R6 Contractor In Field</b>	<b>National Criminal Enforcement Response Team Agents</b>	<b>EPA In REOC</b>	<b>Contractor In REOC</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>

\*Current as of 1900hrs 4/30. OSC's deployed with the Mobile Command Post.